

**St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard,
Harefield, Middlesex, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



527 2ND A.M.

GUY BUCKNALL

69TH SQUADRON, A.F.C. A.I.F.

4TH DECEMBER, 1917 Age 22

Guy BUCKNALL

Guy Bucknall (junior) was born at Majorca, near Cotswold, Victoria in 1895 to parents Guy & Isabel Bucknall (nee Deed).

Guy Bucknall attended school at Cotswold, Victoria.

Guy Bucknall was aged 20 years & 11 months, single & a Farmer from Cotswold, Victoria when he enlisted in Melbourne, Victoria on 11th March, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Presbyterian & his next of kin was listed as his father – Mr G. Bucknall, of Cotswold, Victoria.

Private Guy Bucknall was posted to 19th Depot Battalion at Geelong, Victoria on 10th May, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 5th Reinforcements of 46th Battalion on 3rd August, 1916 then on 2nd September, 1916 he was transferred to 6th Reinforcements of 46th Battalion at Geelong. Private Bucknall was transferred to 2nd Flying Corps Squadron Headquarters at Laverton on 3rd October, 1916.

Private / Air Mechanic 2nd Class Guy Bucknall, Service number 527, embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Ulysses (A 38)* on 25th October, 1916 with the 2nd Australian Flying Squadron – Headquarters & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 28th December, 1916. (Note: One Embarkation Roll has his rank listed as Private another Embarkation Roll has his rank listed as Air Mechanic 2nd Class)

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

2nd Air Mechanic Guy Bucknall was marched out to Ascot from No. 69 Australian Squadron on 5th February, 1917 to collect M. T. Convoy & marched into No. 69 Squadron, R.F.C. (Royal Flying Corps), South Carlton from Ascot on 8th February, 1917.

2nd Air Mechanic Guy Bucknall reported sick on 4th March, 1917 at No. 69 Squadron, R.F.C. He was admitted to 1/4th Northern General Hospital at Lincoln on 4th March, 1917 with Influenza (slight). He was discharged & marched in to A.F.C. (Australian Flying Corps) South Carlton on 11th April, 1917.

2nd Air Mechanic Guy Bucknall reported sick on 14th June, 1917 from No. 69 Squadron, A.F.C., South Carlton. He was admitted to 4th Northern General Hospital at Lincoln on 14th June, 1917.

Base Records wrote to Mr G. Bucknall, Cotswold, Victoria, father of 2nd Air Mechanic Guy Bucknall, on 16th July, 1917 to advise "*Private Guy Bucknall dangerously ill will furnish progress report.*" A further report on 16th July, 1917 advised "*Private Guy Bucknall admitted Fourth Northern General Hospital Lincoln, England. Now dangerously ill Influenza eighth July.*"

2nd Air Mechanic Guy Bucknall was struck off strength of No. 69 Squadron on 23rd July, 1917 having been in hospital for over 1 month (vide A.I.F. Circular memo 34 of 11.1.17. PBN 198616).

Base Records advised Mr G. Bucknall, Cotswold, Victoria on 7th August, 1917 that "*Private Guy Bucknall pronounced out of danger.*" On 23rd August, 1917 Mr G. Bucknall was advised that Private G. Bucknall was improving & on 21st August, 1917 "*Private G. Bucknall slight improved.*"

On 3rd September, 1917 Base Records advised Mr G. Bucknall, Cotswold, Victoria "*Private G. Bucknall has been reported as suffering from Pleurisy with effusion, and on 25.8.17 his condition was stationary.*"

Base Records advised Mr G. Bucknall, Cotswold, Victoria on 4th September, 1917 that "*Private Guy Bucknall again dangerously ill.*" On 17th September, 1917 "*Private Guy Bucknall slightly improved*" & on 22nd September, 1917 "*Private G. Bucknall progressing favourably.*"

On 11th October, 1917 Base Records advised Mr G. Bucknall, Cotswold, Victoria that "*Private G. Bucknall has been reported out of danger.*"

2nd Air Mechanic Guy Bucknall was transferred to 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield, Middlesex on 7th November, 1917.

2nd Air Mechanic Guy Bucknall died at 3.30 am on 4th December, 1917 at 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield Park, Harefield, Middlesex, England from Tubercular Peritonitis (primary) & Exhaustion (secondary)

A death for Guy Bucknall, aged 22, was registered in the December quarter, 1917 in the district of Uxbridge, Middlesex, England.

2nd Air Mechanic Guy Bucknall was buried at 2 pm on 6th December, 1917 in St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield, Middlesex, England – Grave number 41; Section – Australian Military Burial Ground.

From the burial report of 2nd Air Mechanic Guy Bucknall - Coffin was good, polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military Funeral, Gun Carriage being supplied by the A.S.C. and Firing Party and Bugler from Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London. Twenty patients and a number of the staff from the hospital marched in the funeral procession. The service was conducted by Chaplain Terry, Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield. A wreath was sent from Mr C. Billyard-Leake of Harefield. A memorial will be erected by the Local Committee, Harefield. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.

2nd Air Mechanic Guy Bucknall's resting place is now listed by CWGC as Plot number Aust. 39 and he has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Base Records wrote to Mr G. Bucknall, Cotswold, Victoria on 7th December, 1917 to advise that Private G. Bucknall's condition was stationary.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for 2nd Air Mechanic Guy Bucknall contains a request to the Red Cross Harefield, to obtain details of the illness, last hours, death of burial of No. 527 Air Mechanic Guy Bucknall.

- On 5th October, 1917 a Red Cross Visitor wrote: *"I have just had an interview with his doctor Major Gemy who, sometime ago talked the case over with Colonel Mansell Sympson. Bucknall is not on the danger list, but is making no progress and Major Gemy tells me he fears tubercular Peritonitis is setting in and as the patient has have very bad pleurisy and a quantity of fluid removed, it makes the case a grave one. Bucknall has been boarded by the doctors for return to Australia so it depends now when a ship is sailing and whether he will be strong enough to bear the journey. He is certainly depressed & this unfortunately rather ungrateful disposition does not endear him to his fellow patients, but I think the pleurisy probably accounts for this and I am quite sure Sister Sheppard and Nurse Fisher do their very best for him, the latter always makes him little dainties when possible and numerous friends who visit the hospital bring him fruit etc. I have just been talking to Bucknall who says he told his people he should be home for Christmas, but the poor fellow added he felt ha had made no real progress for the last 2 months, he has however had two fairly good days and says he shall enjoy the Anzac bulletin of 24 Oct which I took him."*
- On 10th October, 1917 a Hospital Visitor at Lincoln reported: *"Still in bed, but decidedly better. He had pleurisy and complications and for many weeks was not expected to recover. Has made many friends and is always well supplied with dainties, fruit, eggs etc."*
- Mrs Addison, Red Cross Harefield, wrote the following letter: *"He died 4.12.17 suffering from acute bowel trouble. He was in very lowest condition on admission. All possible was done, but it was too late to operate. He did not suffer at all, He was given morphia whenever pain threatened – and there were many periods when he was conscious and in no pain. He was under a particularly sympathetic Medical Officer, Major Adam. There was a consultation and had any action been possible it would have been taken. His sister was also an exceptional woman, really beloved by her patients. He had constant attention. The sister, Miss Cousins has been called away to France and if no message should go from her that would explain it."*

Guy Bucknall requested in his Will dated 9th May, 1916 that all his real & personal property be bequeathed to his mother Isabel Bucknall, the wife of Guy Bucknall of Cotswold & that his mother be appointed as sole executrix.

2nd Air Mechanic Guy Bucknall was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to 2nd Air Mechanic Bucknall's father - Mr G. Bucknall, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent December, 1921 & Plaque sent October, 1922).

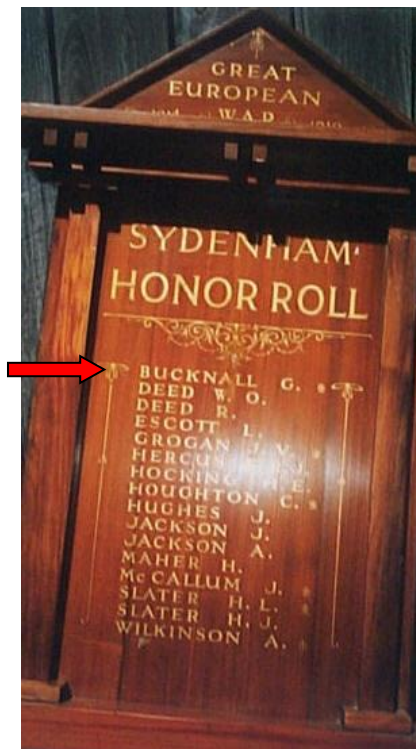
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Air Mechanic 2nd Class Guy Bucknall – service number 527, aged 22, of Australian Flying Corps. He was the son of Guy and Isabel Bucknall.

Air Mechanic Class II Guy Bucknall is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 187.



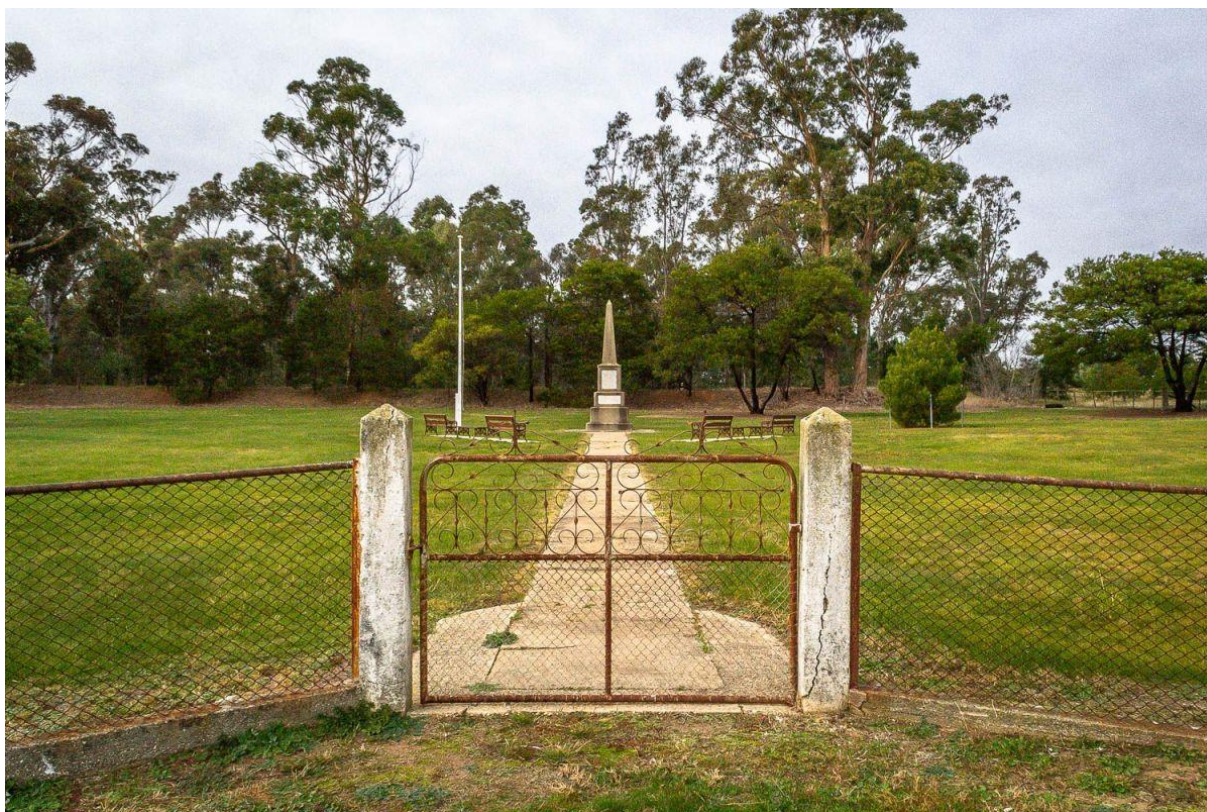
Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

G. Bucknall is remembered on the Sydenham State School Honour Roll (First World War), located in Keilor East RSL. 12 – 22 Hoffmans Road, Essendon, Victoria.

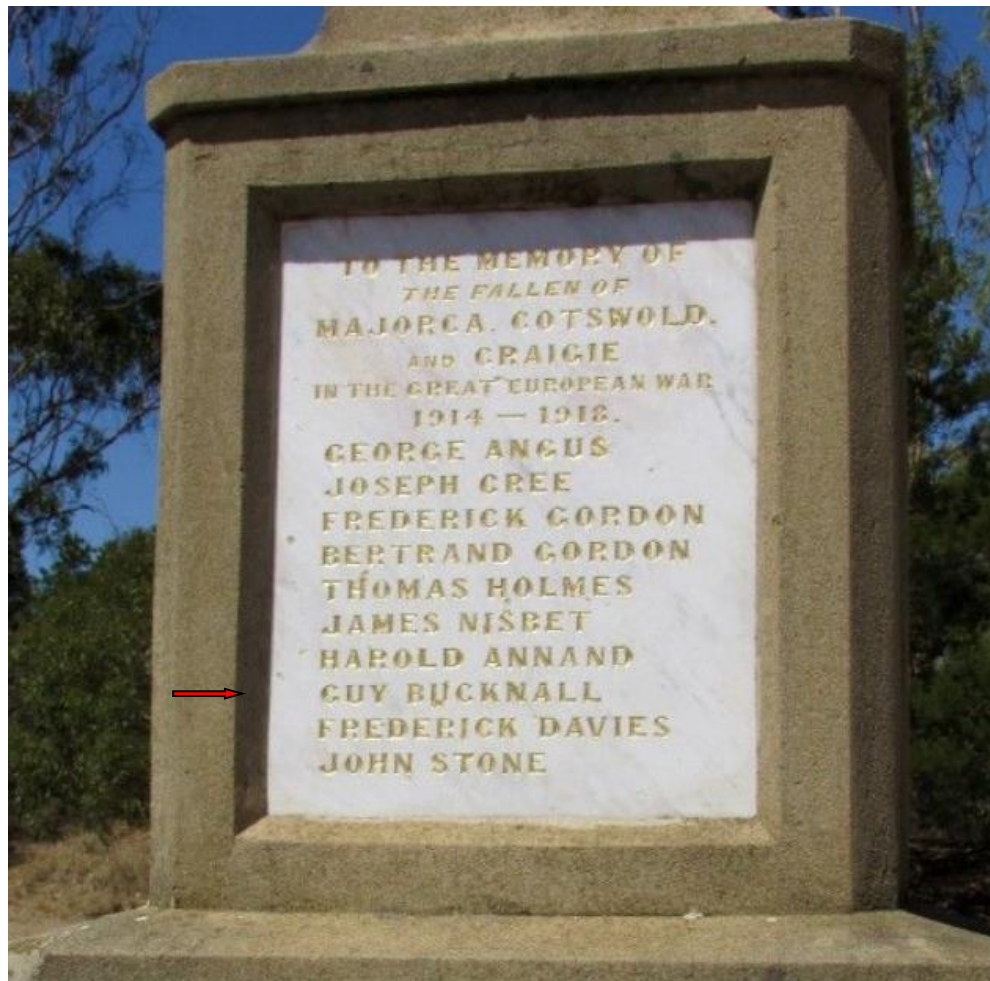


Sydenham State School Honour Roll (Photo from Victorian Heritage Database)

Guy Bucknall is remembered on the Majorca War Memorial, located in Victoria Park Gardens, Talbot Road, Majorca, Victoria.



Majorca War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia)



G. Bucknall is remembered on the Sydenham World War 1 Honour Roll Gates, originally located near the Sydenham Public Hall but the 2 plaques are now located in Keilor East RSL. 12 – 22 Hoffmans Road, Essendon, Victoria.



Sydenham World War 1 Honour Roll Gates (Photos from Sunshine Historical Society)



G. Bucknall is remembered on the Keilor Village Cenotaph, located at Brimbank Council Offices, Old Calder Highway, Keilor, Victoria.



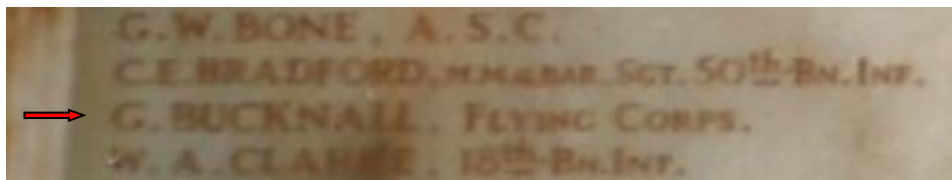
Keilor Village Cenotaph (Photos from *The Family Historian*)



G. Bucknall is remembered on the Australian Soldiers' Memorial in St. Mary the Virgin Church, Church Hill, Harefield, Middlesex, England.



Australian Soldiers' Memorial, Harefield (Photo from War Memorials Online – B. Wood)



(72 pages of 2nd Air Mechanic Guy Bucknall's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives

LAST POST CEREMONY

Air Mechanic Class II Guy Bucknall, Australian Flying Corps, was remembered in the Last Post Ceremony held at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on 5th September, 2016.

Commencing at approximately 4.45 pm AEST, the Memorial farewells visitors with its moving Last Post Ceremony in the Commemorative Courtyard. Each night the ceremony shares the story behind one of the names on the Roll of Honour.

The ceremony begins with the Australian national anthem followed by the piper's lament. Visitors are invited to lay wreaths and floral tributes beside the Pool of Reflection. An individual's story is told, and the Ode is recited by Australian Defence Force personnel. The ceremony ends with the sounding of the Last Post.

(Information from The Australian War Memorial)



Speech transcript

527 Air Mechanic Class II Guy Bucknall, Australian Flying Corps
DOD 4 December 1917
No photograph in collection

Story delivered 5 September 2016

Today we remember and pay tribute to Air Mechanic Guy Bucknall.

Guy Bucknall was the only son of Guy and Isabel Bucknall of Victoria. He and his five sisters grew up on the family farm "Kilgobbin" near Cotswold. He worked as a farmer and had trained as a motor mechanic before his enlistment in the Australian Imperial Force in May 1916.

Bucknall was transferred to the Australian Flying Corps some months after enlisting and was posted to the 69th Australian Squadron of the Royal Flying Corps, based in Lincoln, England, as a mechanic.

In 1917 Bucknall's health started to fail. In March he suffered from a bout of influenza, and returned to duty shortly afterwards. However, in June he became more seriously ill, and after a month in hospital was struck off the strength of the 69th Squadron.

While in hospital, Bucknall was regularly visited by friends who brought him gifts of fruit, and one nurse made him special treats. Nevertheless, his condition deteriorated and he became increasingly depressed. Eventually it was decided that, should he be able to maintain his strength and a suitable ship become available, he would be returned to Australia. He wrote home to say that he would see his family by Christmas.

In November 1917, Bucknall's condition deteriorated further, and he was taken to the No. 1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital in Harefield, near London. He arrived as a stretcher case, seriously ill and emaciated. He never regained enough strength to return to Australia, and died on 4 December 1917.

Guy Bucknall was buried in the nearby Anzac Cemetery within the church cemetery at St Mary's. He was buried with full military honours; a procession of 20 patients and a number of staff from the hospital was accompanied by a gun carriage, a firing party, and a bugler. He was 22 years old.

His name is listed on the Roll of Honour on my right, along with more than 60,000 Australians who died during the First World War.

This is but one of the many stories of service and sacrifice told here at the Australian War Memorial. We now remember Air Mechanic Guy Bucknall, who gave his life for us, for our freedoms, and in the hope of a better world.

*Meleah Hampton
Historian, Military History Section*

Newspaper Notices

327TH CASUALTY LIST

Dangerously Ill

VICTORIA

Pte G. Bucknall, Cotswold

(The Herald, Melbourne, Victoria – 28 July, 1917)

DIED ON SERVICE

BUCKNALL - Died of tubercular peritonitis on 4th December, at First Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield, Air-mechanic Guy, dearly beloved only son of Mr. and Mrs. Guy Bucknall, "Kilgobbin," Cotswold, loved brother of Emmie, Hazel, Myrtle, Eva, and Mabel; brother-in-law of Pte. Jack Birch (returned), and late L.-Cpl. Harold Annand (killed in action June 7), aged 22 years.

We pictured your safe returning,
And longed to clasp your hand,
But God has postponed our meeting-
It will be in a better land.

Thy will be done.

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 14 December, 1917)

News has been received that Mr. Guy Bucknall, of Rodborough, has died of peritonitis in Harefield Hospital, England, on 4th December. Deceased, who was well known in the Maryborough district, enlisted upwards of twelve months ago.

(Maryborough and Dunolly Advertiser, Victoria- 19 December, 1917)

DEATH

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

BUCKNALL – In loving memory of our friend, Guy, who died at Harefield Hospital, England, on 4th December.

-Inserted by his friends, M.A., and L. Trembath

(Maryborough and Dunolly Advertiser, Victoria- 19 December, 1917)

THE 376th CASUALTY LIST

DIED OF ILLNESS

Private G. Bucknall, Cotswold

(The Mildura Cultivator, Victoria – 29 December, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

BUCKNALL.- In loving remembrance of our dear brother, Pte. G. Bucknall, Royal Flying Corps, who died at Harefield Hospital, on 4th December, 1917.

A faithful brother, true and kind,
No one on earth like him we'll find;
One year has passed, but none can tell
The loss of a brother we loved so well.

-(Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, M. and A. Morell, Moolort.)

BUCKNALL.- In fond and loving memory of our dear son and brother, Guy, late of 69th Sqd., A.F.C., who was called to higher service on December 4, 1917.

He nobly responded to his country's call,
He gave his life, his best, his all.

-(Inserted by his loving mother, father, and sisters, Cotswald.)

BUCKNALL.- In loving memory of our dear brother and Uncle Guy, who passed away at Harefield Hospital, Eng., on December 4, 1917, aged 22.

"What peaceful hours we once enjoyed,
How sweet their memory still,
But they have left an aching void,
This world can never fill."

-(Inserted by his sisters, Emmie and Hazel, and brother-in-law, Jack, and little nephew and niece,

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 4 December, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

BUCKNALL – In sad and loving memory of our darling Guy, only son of Mr and Mrs G. Bucknall, and brother of Emmie, Hazel, Myrtle, Eva, and Mab, who died two years ago at Harefield Hospital, England.

Our memories often wander as twilight shadows fall,
And a vision comes before us so fond, so pure, so sweet.
Of one whose lips are silent, and whose heart has ceased to beat;
One of our two loved ones who has been taken home.

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 4 December, 1919)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.

(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)

St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield, Middlesex, England

St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield contains 126 Commonwealth War Graves.

During the two world wars, the United Kingdom became an island fortress used for training troops and launching land, sea and air operations around the globe. There are more than 170,000 Commonwealth war graves in the United Kingdom, many being those of servicemen and women killed on active service, or who later succumbed to wounds. Others died in training accidents, or because of sickness or disease. The graves, many of them privately owned and marked by private memorials, will be found in more than 12,000 cemeteries and churchyards.

Harefield (St. Mary) Churchyard contains war graves from both world wars. There are 120 First World War graves, mostly those of Australians who died in No. 1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield Park. Uniquely, their graves are marked by scroll shaped headstones, chosen by the staff and patients at the hospital. In the centre of the Australian plot stands a memorial obelisk which was erected by Sir Francis Newdegate, late Governor of Tasmania and of Western Australia, and Mr. C.A.M. Billyard-Leake, of Harefield Park. The churchyard also contains six graves of the Second World War.

(Information & photos from CWGC)



St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield

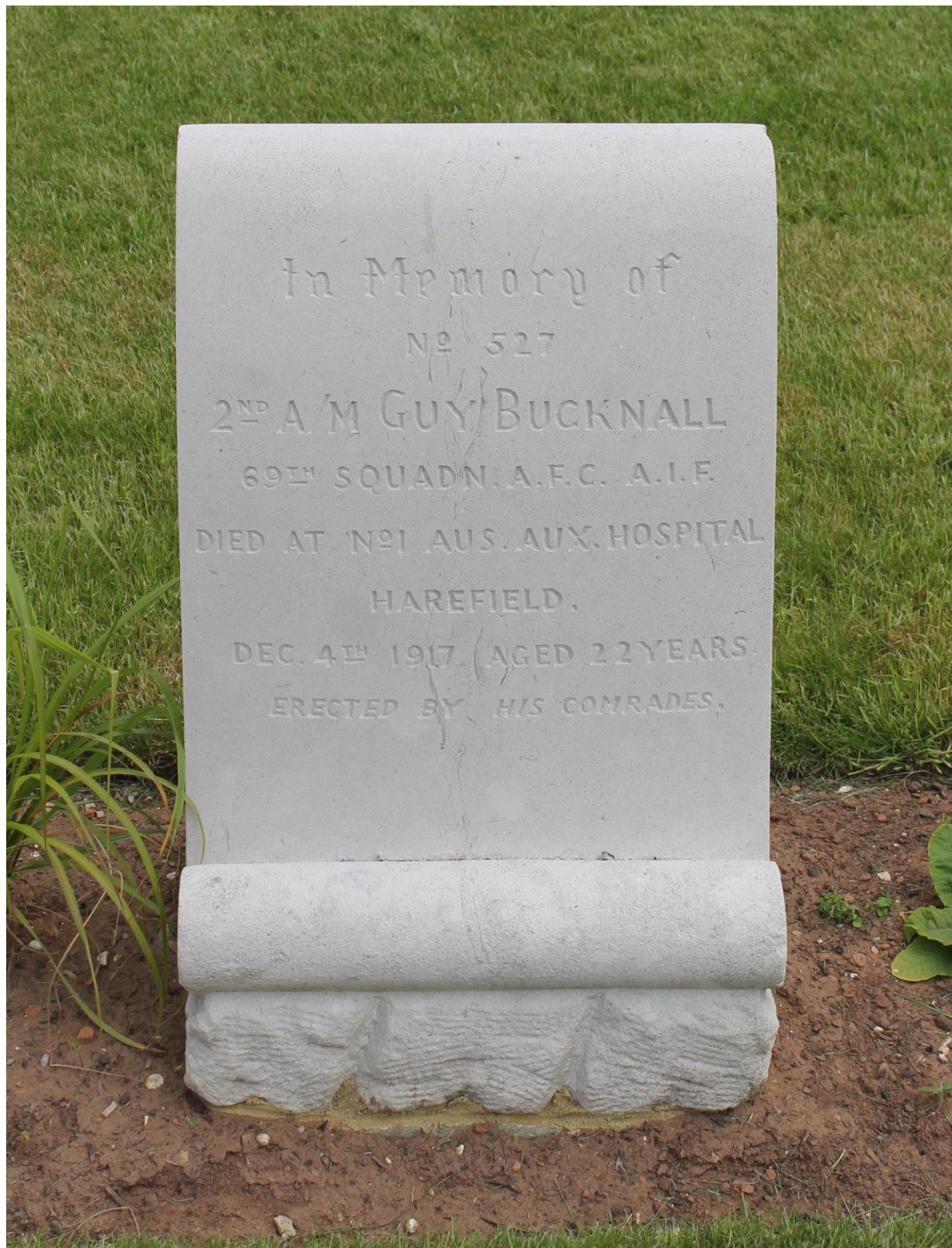




St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield



Photo of 2nd A. M. Guy Bucknall's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield, Middlesex, England.



(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)



St Mary the Virgin Church, Harefield (Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)



St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield (Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)



St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield (Photos courtesy of Peter Bennett)

